

The Producer Price Index fell to 6.03% less than forecast, adding to the inflation fears; unemployment claims fell 0.51%, and Wall Street closed down.

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The U.S. & European stock markets closed with mixed results following a Producer Price Index Report higher than forecasted. The PPI came in at 6.03%, falling from 6.47%; it rose 0.7% in the past month, while consensus estimates pointed to 0.4%. The inflation fears again engulfed Wall Street as most had placed inflation behind us and expected rates to decrease again. Now with both the CPI and PPI higher than forecast, the scenario changes to one of uncertainty, and Wall Street hates uncertainty.

Key Economic Data:

- **U.S. Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance:** fell to 194,000, down from 195,000 last week, decreasing -0.51%.
- **U.S. Producer Price Index YoY:** fell to 6.03%, compared to 6.47% last month.
- **U.S. Core Producer Price Index YoY:** fell to 5.37%, compared to 5.78% last month.
- **U.S. Housing Starts:** fell to 1.309 million, down from 1.371 million last month, decreasing -4.52%.
- **U.S. Building Permits:** rose to 1.339 million, up from 1.337 million last month.
- **30-Year Mortgage Rate:** rose to 6.12%, compared to 6.09% last week.
- **N.Y. Fed Business Leaders Survey Current Business Activity:** is at -12.80, up from -21.40 last month.

Puerto Rico COVID-19 Update February 16:

- Daily Cases: 95
- Positivity Rate: 15.26%
- Hospitalizations: 121
- Deaths: 2
- Source P.R. Department of Health.

Eurozone Summary for February 16:

- Stoxx 600 closed at 465.22, up 1.16 points or 0.25%.
- FTSE 100 closed at 8,012.53, up 14.79 points or 0.18%.
- Dax Index closed at 15,539.36, up 33.02 points or 0.21%.

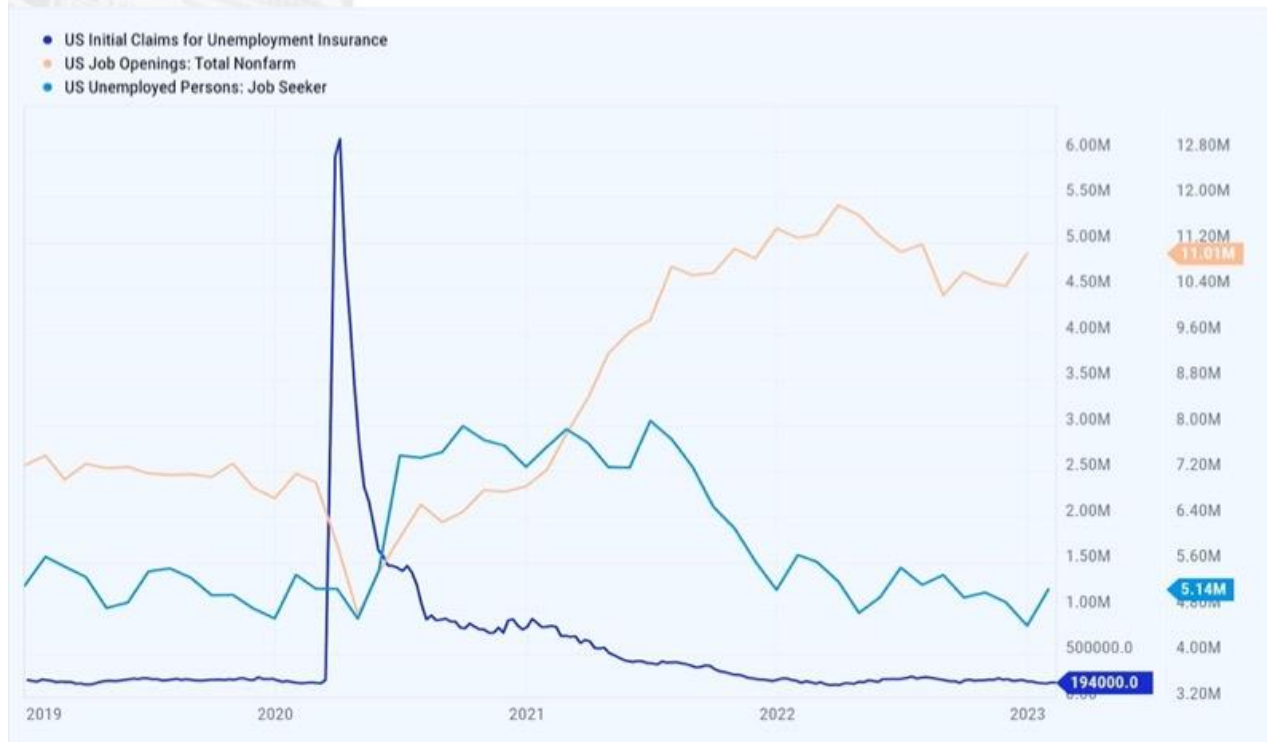
Wall Street Summary for February 16:

- Dow Jones Industrial Average closed at 33,696.85, down 431.20 or 1.26%.
- S&P 500 closed at 4,090.41, down 57.19 points or 1.38%.

- Nasdaq Composite closed at 11,855.83, down 214.76 points or 1.78%.
- Birling Capital Puerto Rico Stock index closed at 2,762.05, up 22.32 points or 0.81%.
- U.S. Treasury 10-year note closed at 3.86%.
- U.S. Treasury 2-year note closed at 4.62%.



US Claims for Unemployment fell to 194,000 down 0.51%



US Housing Starts, US Building Permits, 30-Year Mortgage Rate



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